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Proposed Budget cuts to Individuals with disabilities

Dear Committee Members, Senator Kennedy, and Representative Scanlon,

I am a parent of a 19 year old son who has autism with intellectual disability and epilepsy, and I am concerned about the Governor's proposed state budget. Budget reductions over the past year have already cut into programs and services for people with ID/DD, and there are so many who are in need.

My gravest concern is that the Governor's budget does not include funding for new high school graduates. This denies the nearly 700 students who will graduate from special education programs over the next two years the benefits of day and employment opportunities.

My son will be among those affected by these proposed cuts. He will graduate in June of 2018. He has worked very hard during his school years to achieve the greatest level of independence possible. We are proud of what he has achieved given his disability. Despite this, he will need constant supervision and guidance throughout is life for reasons of safety.

WHAT WILL HE DO IF THERE ARE NO SUPPORTS IN PLACE FOR HIM???

As Connecticut faces an unprecedented fiscal crisis, the Governor and the Legislature have an important choice - to continue business as usual and continue to cut vital services to thousands of the state's most vulnerable citizens and their families or to shift services and funding to the community to ensure these vital services remain available to those who need them.

Please, please help families like mine who have children with ID/DD who are graduating from high school.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Smith
81 Flat Meadow Road Guilford, CT*

